



# MIDDLE SCHOOL COLLEGE PREP CHECKLIST

It is never too early to start dreaming. And the sooner you start, the better prepared you'll be for education after high school. Middle school students can use this checklist to get in the right head space for college prep.

- ❑ Start talking about ideas for your future with family members, teachers and your school counselor. You don't have to have all the answers, but these discussions can help you dream about the possibilities.
- ❑ Set regular time and space aside for studying and completing homework.
- ❑ Pay attention to the subjects and activities you most enjoy in middle school. These are good clues to what you might find interesting in a future career.
- ❑ Learn about career clusters and take fun personality tests to see what occupations fit your interests.
  - ❑ SDMyLife.com is a great place to start! (Every 6-12<sup>th</sup> grade student in SD can access this free career and college planning tool with login information provided by your school.)
- ❑ Familiarize yourself with the math pathways advising tools on ourdakotadreams.com. These tools will help you understand the types of math courses you should consider taking in middle and high school based on your career interest areas.
- ❑ Find opportunities to get involved in your community and extracurricular activities – bring a friend too!
- ❑ Start saving for college now.
- ❑ Check out career camps that are offered and enroll in a summer enrichment program.